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Our Mission as a congregation: *Love the Lord Your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy and love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12:19-21 MSG)*

January 31, 2021 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

Prelude *"Are Ye Able," said the Master*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 18:28-30 responsive)

God shows us the way, God lights up the darkness.

Through God the impossible becomes reality and life becomes new.

God's way is perfect; the promise of the Lord proves true;

Let us open our hearts and minds and come before God.

Prayer of Approach: (together)

Loving God, draw us close to you and to each other

as we gather for worship this day.

Speak to us through the words and music

so we can hear again the truth of the good news.

Show us the way you call us to live

**and allow us to discover the new life which is ours
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Children's story and the Lord's prayer.

Meditative Music *Praise our Maker*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Responsive Reading: Psalm 111 (p. 833 VU)

I will thank you, God with my whole heart,

in the company of the upright, in their assembly.

Great are your works, O God, studied by all who delight in them.

Honor and majesty are your work, your righteousness endures forever.

You have won renown for your wonders,

You are gracious and full of compassion. R

You give food to those who fear you,

you keep your covenant always in mind.

You have shown your power in action,

giving your people the heritage of nations.

The works of your hand are faithful and just,

all your precepts are trustworthy.

They stand fast forever and ever, grounded in justice and truth.

You sent redemption to your people,

you decreed your covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is your name. R

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom,

those who practice it have good understanding.

May your praise endure forever. R

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Anthem

Sermon: "A New Teaching"

GOD CALLS US TO RESPOND

Meditative Music *Come, Let Us Sing Of A Wonderful Love*

Pastoral Prayer of the People

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

A warm welcome to everyone who is joining us for worship. May this be a time for you to draw closer to God. The services online are posted each week on our website (www.stjamesuc.com) and through social media (www.facebook.com/stjamesAntigonish)

For the month of January, the church office will be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 am until noon. The emails, voice messages, and mail slot are checked daily.

A Council meeting has been called by the chair, Mike Cook, for Wednesday, February 3 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Broadview (formally 'the Observer') is the magazine of the United Church which features articles on spirituality and society. For renewals or new subscriptions please put a cheque for \$25 made out to "Broadview" with your offering or to the office before February 4, 2021.

The Church Council met on Tuesday January 19th to consider the life and work of St. James. The committee reports, financial statements, and proposed budget for 2021 were reviewed and will be published in the Annual Report available early February. The Congregational Annual Meeting date and format are still to be determined but tentatively will happen near the end of February.

How can you help support the life and work at St. James? You can mail a donation to St. James United Church, P. O. Box 1178, 197 Main Street, Antigonish NS B2G 2L6, drop it off in the mail slot, click on the “Donate” button on the website, or you can give monthly via PAR. For more information send an email to office@stjamesuc.com

Truth & Reconciliation – Call #68 Museums and Archives – We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, and the Canadian Museums Association to mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017 by establishing a dedicated national funding program for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation.

Your Social Justice committee asks you to mark World Interfaith Harmony Week from 1- 8 February. This 2007 initiative called for Muslim and Christian leaders to engage in dialogue based on two common fundamental religious Commandments; Love of God, and Love of the Neighbour – without compromising any of their own religious tenets. These two commandments are at the heart of most religions and therefore provide the most solid theological ground possible. The week provides a platform where all interfaith groups and groups of goodwill can show the world what a powerful movement they are. World Interfaith Harmony Week now extends the Two Commandments by adding ‘Love of the Good, and Love of the Neighbour’. This formula includes all people of goodwill – those of other faiths, and those with no faith. It is hoped this initiative will provide a focal point for all people of goodwill to recognize that the common values they hold far outweigh the differences, and thus provide a strong dose of peace and harmony to their communities. *“We may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race.”* – Kofi Annan (Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1997 - 2006)



Scripture Readings for Next Sunday
Isaiah 40:21-31 • 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 • Mark 1:29-39